# CORNBANK PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

## #RISE

Respect Inclusion Safe Excellence

9th January 2020

**Happy New Year!**

It has been a great start to the New Year with a buzz of excitement around the school. I hope all our Cornbank families had an enjoyable and safe holiday. It has been lovely to hear all the stories from pupils about their holiday as well as such enthusiasm about returning to school for the New Year.

Staff returned to school on Monday and had a very productive day working on priorities in our School Improvement Plan. We had a big focus on improving teaching and learning and we were able to identify many strengths as well discuss our next steps. We have provided an update on our School Improvement Plan within this email. As always, we appreciate your feedback and support.

Many of you will be aware that Mrs Turnbull, Primary 6 teacher, has been absent from work since November. Mr Drysdale and Mrs Deas have been planning and supporting the teaching of Primary 6 over this time. We have also been very fortunate to have part time members of our team offer to work additional days to support the class. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Turnbull all the very best.

We are all looking forward to another busy term at Cornbank. We have many opportunities for families to be in school. There are five class assemblies taking place between now and Easter. Please check the school calendar for dates for your child's class assembly. An updated paper copy has been sent home today. We will also be running Shared Start for Primary 1 – Primary 3. We received lots of positive feedback from our last Shared Start sessions; 'it was really good to see all the different techniques you use in class to teach', and 'a great session, it provided us with details in how to support at home which is linked to school learning'.

We look forward to working with all our Cornbank families throughout the term.

Kind Regards,

**Laura Cameron**

**Head Teacher**

## END OF TERM

We ended last session with a whole school visit to St James the Less Church. This was a lovely morning sharing our Christmas celebrations, led by our Primary 7 pupils. A big thank you to all the families who supported us with the walk to and from the church. Also a big thank you to the many children who contributed to the service; musicians, hosts and choir. We are very proud of them all!

I would also like to thank you for all your support over the very busy term. We are delighted to let you know that between our Cornbank Fair, Calendars, Christmas Cards and Raffle you helped us to raise an amazing amount of £3212. Money raised at each of the class stalls has been allocated back to classes so that pupils can help decide how it is spent. This will be shared in January Class newsletters. We are hoping to use some of the money towards supporting developing digital resources. Thank you so much - we could not do it without your help!

## ROTARY QUIZ

We are currently in the process of choosing our four P7 pupils to take part in our local Rotary Quiz. This is an annual event and takes place in Penicuik High School on Thursday 6th February at 6.30pm. You are very welcome to come along and be part of the audience. We would like to wish the team lots of luck!

## *Seasons for Growth®* Programme

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Cornbank Primary we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce and related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education programme called *Seasons for Growth* which will commence in the week beginning 17th February 2020. This programme is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The programme focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

We are hoping to run a *Seasons* group this term for pupils in P5, 6 and 7.
Every family of pupils in these classes will receive a letter soon giving more details about the *Seasons for Growth* programme. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from *Seasons for Growth* we would encourage you to talk to him/her about participating in the programme.

## OPEN DOOR POLICY

At Cornbank Primary School, we offer an open door policy. Should you require to have a meeting with the class teacher, please contact the school office. The class teacher will then contact you and an appointment can be made.

Please remember class teachers often have meetings or training courses after school so they will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. Mr Drysdale, Mrs Deas and I are also available should you wish to speak to us.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

We love to hear about pupils' achievements outside of school. We celebrate these in class, on Twitter, on wall displays and ask children to record these in our class Wider Achievement books.

You can help let us know about your children's achievements by emailing the school on Cornbank_PS@midlothian.gov.uk or through Twitter@CornbankPS

## COMMUNICATION

We are continuing to use emails as our main form of written communication – we hope everyone is receiving their newsletters. Please let us know if you change your email address. Our office staff look out for any emails that have bounced or not been sent and will send home a paper copy.

Teachers are currently writing class newsletters and these will be coming home next Thursday.

Over 97% of our families are signed onto Parent Pay. We really appreciate you checking your account to ensure it is in credit.

If your child is going to be absent from school it is so important that you let the school office know, messages can be left on the school answer machine.

## BUSY CORNBANK CHILDREN

We continue to have lots of lunchtime and after school clubs running in school across this term.

| Day | Club | Stage |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 12.40-1.10pm | Choir | P4-7 |
| Tuesday 12.40-1.10pm | Chess | P5-7 |
| Wednesday 12.30-1.10pm | Football | P6-7 |
| Thursday 12.40-1.10pm | Book Club | P4-7 |
| Thursday 12.30-1.10pm | Fancy Footwork | P1-4 |
| Friday 12.25 – 1.25pm | Tennis | P3-7 |

A lunchtime STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) club will be running. Pupils will learn more about this exciting opportunity soon! In addition to this, our Health and Sports Pupil Voice Group will meet next week and work together with staff to decide on which other clubs they wish to run this term. There will be opportunities for children across the school to join these clubs at no cost.